



HI-Q



Volume 75

JUNE 2009

Issue 6

Prez Sez.....Randy VA3OJ

The summer solstice is only a few days away and the days will be getting shorter again. Has anyone locally seen spring yet? The weather has been less than stellar so far and I hope we have something to look forward to in the next couple of months.

On the radio scene in Thunder Bay, look for some new changes. If you had the same problem with VE3TBR repeater that many others have had, it is probably locked out in your scan mode. We have had interference that on occasion would mix with our repeater frequency and produce music on the repeater output frequency. Well, after some searching and troubleshooting, repairs are underway to fix the problem. VE3TBR will return to its original frequency of 146.820 and have a tone of 107.2 Hz. Hopefully, this will resolve the problem. This work will commence on Monday June 7. So expect the repeater to be out of service while repairs are made. This brings me to the next point. The IRLP node 2000

will be installed at TBR and will run on the same frequency as the repeater much the same as the old VE3BGA site. As many of you have read locally, Hillcrest High School will be closing it's doors to education at the end of the month. With the closure, we have lost a really good repeater site. The site was cleaned out last month, to ensure that we would not have trouble claiming our gear when the doors close for good. Thanks goes out to the gang for helping to get this job done and a special thanks to Terry va3lu who has put in tons of time to get the new repeater changes implemented.

With summer just around the next snowflake, people will be getting out to enjoy the warmer weather and all the fun things that this time of the year brings. I would like to ask that everyone please have a safe summer and be careful. A special note that the children of our community will be getting out of school soon and to have a extra look around to make sure we don't have any accidents during the holidays.

Field day is coming on fast and it sounds like you could have a choice of events to attend. So get out and support the hobby that you have sunk your hard earned pesos into.

Field Day 2009

June is here and field day is just around the corner. We will set up the field day site at 2174 Rosslyn Road, VA3OJ's house, same site as last year. This year, I would ask that if you are bringing your own radio gear, to please come a few days early to predetermine antenna-mounting sites. This may help to eliminate some of the problems that we have had in the past with interference between operating stations. We will have the usual 2 club stations running.

I would like to mention that we would have the usual potluck dinner at 6pm on Saturday and ask that everyone bring something for the feast. I will have a bbq available and some coolers that can be used for storage. If it is a hot plate, try to have it in something to keep

it warm and we can warm it up if necessary. So if frog legs are your specialty, show off your culinary talents, but wiener wraps are your favorite for sharing, go for it!

Any questions or comments would be welcome, but I will need some help on Friday to erect the tent city.

If you decide to stay overnight, there is room for camper trucks, trailers, tents and very small motels. We will have the port-a-john on site. If there is anything else, we will wing it to make it work.

Start time for set up is 10 am Sat and field day starts at 2 pm and runs until 2 pm Sun.

So lets have some fun as we did at the 75th anniversary special event station. Bring your best operators face and try not to scare anyone!!!!

I think that is all that is needed to be said. To quote a line from a movie: "If you build it, they will come."

Thanks

Randy VA3OJ

LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske VE3JQ
Pat Doherty VE3PD
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

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ABOUT US

The :Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand - May 5, 2009 \$9,130.98

Income

Clothing - Cap	\$10.00
Crests	\$8.00
50/50 Draw	\$5.00
Bank Interest	\$0.06
Surplus Equipment	\$100.00
Total Income	\$123.06

Expenses

Thunder Bay Telephone	\$47.83
Bank Service Charges	\$4.00
NSF Cheque Returned + \$7.00 fee re: Jackets etc.	\$294.00
Annual Dinner Exp.	\$1,384.39
Mallons Corp. Impressions - Clothing	\$1,923.91
Total Expenses	\$3,654.13
Balance on Hand - June 4, 2009	\$5,599.91

Joe "Cashdrawer" Coghlan - VE3TBX
Treasurer

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 145.490 (-600) (100.0 Hz)
442.075 (+5 MHz)
144.390 APRS

VE3BGA (Hillcrest H.S.) 145.450 (-600) (IRLP Node VA3LU 123.0 Hz)
442.825 (+5 MHz) (100.0 Hz)
VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

8 NEW HAMS IN THUNDER BAY

The Amateur classes are over after 8 weeks of study. Fred, VE3FAL did the testing and you should be hearing 8 new calls on YQT and HF. Everyone passed with a mark of over 80% so they all got the Basic Licence with Honours. There was even one mark of 92% which is the highest Fred ever had. Several have bought 2M rigs and if you hear them on the repeater please say hello and make them welcome. Two have moved for the summer back to Southern Ontario so I suspect the IRLP will get some more usage. There are a few more who will take the test later. Welcome to the LARC. Congratulations to:

VA3BHZ	Bohdan Zubatuk
VA3DEF	Don McQueen
VE3EHI	Paula Shadden
VE3KZG	Kurtis Gagne
VA3JET	Jared Ali
VE3NBX	Nik Broukhanski
VA3KOI	Matt Bourdages
VA3LBA	Luba Cargill

Bill VE3XT

CANWARN

Canwarn training was held on May 22nd, with 26 members, and a few non members attending. A big thank you to all who took in the training, and also a thank you to Serge Besner from Environment Canada for coming back to Thunder Bay during his Northwestern Ontario trip.

Regards,
John
VA3JMS

Al Sokoloski VA3AMY advises that the UK callsign list is available...read the article at

<http://www.eham.net/articles/21735>

Want to work QRP this field day?
Contact Fred Lesnick VE3FAL
flesnick@tbaytel.net

NEW AMATEURS IN ATIKOKAN

Please welcome four new amateur radio operators who've just passed their Basic (with Honours) exams in Atikokan:

Jeff Cederwall, VE3JTD
Jason Johnson, VE3PEJ
Paul Johnson, VA3PJM
Keith Lusignan, VA3KAX

You should hear them on the IRLP system. Please welcome them and help them learn about our exciting hobby. I expect at least a couple more new hams from Atikokan within the next few weeks.
Warren VE3FYN

The LARC thanks.....

Doug McCormack VE3EFC.

Since returning to the Lakehead, Doug has quietly been assisting the LARC with many of the club projects. We would like to thank Doug for his contributions to the LARC and amateur radio, including QSONET and CQ100. You can read more about Doug and his work at

<http://ve3efc.ca/>
<http://www.qsonet.com>
<http://www.cormactech.com/>



VE3EFC at his shack

ARES TRAINING DAY

ARES members (and interested amateurs) in the Lakehead Area, please mark the following date on your calendars! And let Brad Harris VE3MXJ (Thunder Bay EC) know if you can attend at ve3mxj@rac.ca . Thanks.

There will be a Lakehead ARES training day Saturday June 13th, 2009, from 9 AM to (approximately) 6 PM. The day will be split into two parts. In the morning, message handling procedures and logging will be reviewed, and after lunch, the group will deploy into a mock disaster scenario for the afternoon.

Morning Location - 9 AM:

(Photo ID required.)

Meeting Room
Salvation Army
545 Cumberland St. N.
Thunder Bay

Lunch:

Available at the Salvation Army for \$3.00
or bring your own.

Afternoon Location:

Members will be deployed throughout the VE3YQT repeater coverage area.
Net Control: VE3ONN

I am looking forward to taking part in this day with you.

73

Brad Harris VE3MXJ

North East Regional Directors Report May 19 - 23 2009



The Radio Amateurs of Canada, Annual Board of Directors meeting was held from May 19 to 23 in Ottawa and Cornwall.

The first two days were taken up meeting with Industry Canada discussing matters of mutual interest. As a result the new band of 135.7 to 137.8 kHz is going out for public consultation. It may be available to Amateurs by late 2009 or early 2010. We also discussed new frequency assignments at 500 kHz and 5 MHz. These last two will take longer.

After we finished with Industry Canada, the Board went to the Nav Can site at Cornwall to have our meetings. We are having trouble attracting and even worse, retaining existing members. If you are a member it is very important to renew your membership and if not a member, would you consider joining? As a board we are going to implement some new strategies to increase and retain members. If you are talking to other Amateurs please ask them to consider the benefits of RAC membership.

We all realise these are difficult times financially for many of us, but is your hobby worth \$50 a year to you? If RAC is no longer representing Canadian Amateurs who will?

The other heads up is that the web page listings of clubs in the North / East Ontario region are woefully out of date. If the club information has not been updated by July 1 it will be removed. Can you please verify any club information in your area? The link is http://www.rac.ca/cdn_clubs/region_ontario_no.htm

And finally our VP Public Relations Peter, VE3HG is working very closely with Ontario Ministry of Transport officials on Bill 118. Expect some news, hopefully in 30 days.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at ve3xt@rac.ca.

73

Bill Unger VE3XT
North East Ontario
Regional Director

Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Date: May 14, 2009

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.

Treasurer's Report: Terry Stewardson VA3LU moved to accept the report as printed in the May Hi-Q. Seconded by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP. One opposed. Passed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Terry Stewardson VA3LU moved to accept the April meeting's minutes as printed in the May Hi-Q. Seconded by Brad Harris VE3MXJ. Passed Unanimously.

Old Business: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ thanked everyone who worked on the 75th Anniversary Dinner.

Public Service: Next Event: Ten Mile Road Race in the Monday of the May Long weekend. (Norm Bell VE3XRB: All volunteers are arranged.)

Anyone interested in volunteering for public service events, please contact John Sacek VA3JMS, 767-3631.

Repeater News Terry Stewardson VA3LU reported that will be pulling the equipment of VE3BGA because the school where it is located is closing. The frequency of BGA will change from 145.450 to 145.490. Terry will move the IRLP node to VE3TBR.

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ mentioned that the Grande Portage repeater was recorded as being down, but instead the problem was with the UHF linkage to other repeaters. That is now fixed and operational.

ARES: Brad Harris VE3MXJ (Thunder Bay EC) reported that a Lakehead ARES training day is coming up on Saturday June 13th, 2009, from 9 AM to (approximately) 6 PM.

The day will be split into two parts. In the morning, message handling procedures and logging will be reviewed, and after lunch, the group will deploy into a mock disaster scenario for the afternoon. See the article elsewhere in HI-Q for details.

ARES members, or non ARES interested amateurs are encouraged to participate. Bring mobiles and HTs. Please RSVP to Brad Harris VE3MXJ (ve3mxj@rac.ca)

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ reported that there was an emergency preparedness test on the Gunflint Trail to see how far and which distances communications could be achieved. They were impressed that they could talk right into Thunder Bay.

CANWARN Training Environment Canada will be holding a training evening for Canwarn (severe weather) on Friday May 22, 7 PM, Shuniah Building, Confederation College. Brad Harris VE3MXJ and Joe Coghlan VE3TBX went to the Skywarn training (American equivalent to Canwarn) where a meteorologist from Duluth gave a good presentation.

75th Anniversary Clothing Pick-up tonight at meeting
75th Anniversary Dinner

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ shared the correspondence from Rebecca Johnson and also the Award of Appreciation from the City of Thunder Bay.

Operating event April 18th, 19th VC3FW Bill Unger VE3XT reporting... We had about 500 contacts with the special event station with many club members taking part in operating and logging the different stations. Some new hams took part too. SSB stations were active on 40 and 20 metres, a digital modes HF station, and CQ100 was active on the internet. Although HF propagation was not favourable, everyone who participated had a good time. (Thank you, Bill!)

The QSL award is still being prepared. It will have a picture of the original 1934 dinner, a fancy border on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Thunder Bay Tourism will do the mailing and include city promotional materials.

55 Plus Centre Report from Bob Hansen VE3RVA Meeting Thursday May 21, Board Room, 7 PM, 55 Plus Centre. Bob Hansen VE3RVA announced that the 55 Plus Centre group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding July and August) The group is working on a proposal of club's initiatives to submit to the Centre's administration.

New Business

Northern Lights Credit Union The executive recommends changing our financial institution to Northern Lights Credit Union. Doug McCormack VE3EFC mentioned that the club constitution does not include a Credit Union for banking purposes, only a bank or trust company. Randy Gottfred VA3OJ, mentioned that the constitution will have to be changed first, then the banking institution.

Field Day Randy Gottfred VA3OJ invited the club to hold field day at his place as in the past. Terry Stewardson VA3LU moved, seconded by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP to have a Saturday night Pot Luck dinner on field day. Passed unanimously.

Hymers Fall Fair The club plans to be there this year with the trailer and a station. John Sacek VA3JMS will organize.

JUNE**HI-Q - Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club****2009**

Grand Kam Canoe and Kayak Scheduled for August 22, 2009

Kids of Steel, Conquer the Dog Triathlon, Inline Skate Race in Shuniah. Nothing heard from these venues yet.

Antenna Season now closed!!!

Bill Unger VE3XT blew the Official Traditional DX Horn o'Plenty, (passed down in his family for generations!) marking the end of antenna season. The official hoot went kinda like "BLAAAAAAHT" which scared the beejeebers out of some in attendance, and woke up the rest. Fortunately, the antennas held through the blast. 50/50 Draw: Leo Wehrstedt (gasp!)

Adjournment moved by: Terry Stewardson VA3LU

Next LARC Meeting: June 11, 2009.

73 - Karl VE3RRP

For Sale:

- Comet dual-band mag mount antenna near new...\$50
- Midland dual-band thru-glass antenna....unopened pkg...\$35
- Bearcat BCT8 trunking scanner...very good shape...\$150
- HW-8 QRP CW transceiver c/w HK power supply used very little...\$100
- Larson NLA magnet antenna base...\$25

Contact Bill at 344-6189

va3ay@tbaytel.net

ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

- 1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contestants call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
- 2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
- 3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.
- 4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.
- 5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.
- 6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
- 7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
- 8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
- 9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.
- 10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

Photo Page !



The sun on June 5, 2009 - Sunspot 1019 has broken up and is fading, the current sunspot number is 17. - Credit: SOHO/MDI

VE3RVA ,Bob at his position in the Ten Mile road race



Paul Curtin VA3PDC and Fred Collings VE4TRO from Winnipeg MB , at the Ham Lake Half Marathon in Grand Marais MN

photos courtesy of Paul Curtin VA3PDC.....thanks Paul

June 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu Coffee at Boston on Arthur Street	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 LARC Meeting ConCollege	12	13	14 Fessenden Radio Day
15	16	17 QRP DAY	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Field	28 Day
29	30	No more meetings until Sep- tember				